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Chairman: Mr. Zackheos ..... (Cyprus)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of Julius Nyerere and of United Nations staff members killed in Burundi and Kosovo

1. *At the invitation of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the first President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Julius Nyerere, and to the United Nations staff members killed in Burundi and Kosovo.*

Agenda item 90: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (A/54/63-S/1999/171, A/54/87, A/C.4/54/L.2*)

2. **Mr. Zaki** (Egypt), speaking as Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the report of the Special Committee (A/54/87) and said that the Special Committee considered it essential for the United Nations to be in a position to maintain international peace and security effectively, in particular by effective planning and management of peacekeeping operations and by responding quickly and effectively to any Security Council mandate. Since the end of the cold war, the number of complex peacekeeping operations had increased. In that regard, the Special Committee had stressed the importance of an effective, efficiently structured and adequately staffed Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It had also stressed the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it had established for the deployment and conduct of peacekeeping operations.

3. On the issue of consultations between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat, the Special Committee again recommended that steps should be taken to ensure rigorous, timely and systematic implementation of the current arrangements, which did not preclude the possibility of consultations in other forms.

4. In the personnel area, the Special Committee had reaffirmed that all provisions of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations must be fully and strictly observed in the management and conduct of peacekeeping operations. It had stressed the importance of carefully selecting and preparing senior military commanders, police commissioners and key staff personnel before their deployment to a peacekeeping operation.

5. In the section of the report on organization, planning and coordination, the Special Committee noted the importance of early planning and regular coordination for peacekeeping operations. It also reiterated the importance of exercising transparency in selecting troop contributors, in particular in the use of the United Nations standby arrangements system. The Special Committee had again stressed the importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of peacekeeping operations and welcomed the progress achieved in developing a flexible and comprehensive logistic strategy for peacekeeping operations.

6. In the section on safety and security, the Special Committee expressed its grave concern at the growing number of attacks and acts of violence against United Nations and associated personnel. In that connection, it had emphasized the role of effective public information in enhancing personnel safety and the need for peacekeeping forces to be properly configured and discrepancies between mandates and resources to be avoided.

7. In recognition of the growing role of civilian police in peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee supported the Secretariat's efforts to follow up the Civilian Police Seminars and to coordinate further initiatives in that area. It also reaffirmed the need to strengthen the Civilian Police Unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

8. The Special Committee had noted that the United Nations rapid deployment capability was a comprehensive concept that included many elements and called upon all Member States that had subscribed to the standby arrangements system to initiate, in collaboration with the Secretariat, development of applicable contingent-owned equipment memoranda of understanding.

9. The Special Committee had stressed that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Also, it had expressed deep concern at the delay in reimbursements to troop contributors, and encouraged the Secretariat to process the backlog of claims expeditiously.

10. One section of the report was devoted to cooperation with regional arrangements. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirmed the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies could make to peacekeeping in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter. In that regard, the Special Committee had stressed that international efforts to enhance the collective capacity of African countries to participate in peacekeeping operations should focus first and foremost on enhancing the institutional capacity of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

11. The Special Committee had come to the conclusion that its relationship with the General Assembly needed to be enhanced so as to improve the efficiency of the work of the Special Committee and allow for closer consultations with the Secretariat on peacekeeping issues. In that connection, the Special Committee had requested that its report should be circulated in official form no later than four weeks after the completion of its substantive session. The deliberations on the item on peacekeeping in the Fourth Committee during the following regular session of the General Assembly would begin with a presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the implementation of the Special Committee's recommendations, followed by an informal exchange of views between the members of the Fourth Committee and the Secretariat on the substance of the Under-Secretary-General's briefing. Member States would then have the opportunity to participate in a general debate in the Fourth Committee on peacekeeping issues.

12. **Mr. Miyet** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations), reviewing the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in 1999, noted that peacekeeping operations remained an effective means of dealing with the crises occurring in various parts of the world. Although there was no doubt that other mechanisms, forums and organizations must be sought, the recent events in Kosovo, East Timor, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone had reaffirmed the urgency and importance of the peacemaking activities of the United Nations and its key role in the international community's efforts to advance the peace. Over the past 12 months, the scale of the Organization's work in that area had expanded significantly. Some of the most important events had been the deployment of two operations that were unprecedented in scale, in Kosovo and East Timor; the preparations to begin a massive operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the substantial expansion of the operation in Sierra Leone.

13. It was now becoming increasingly clear that the United Nations remained the key mechanism for reconciling the most divergent views and managing operations, whose mandates could be supported by all interested parties. Regional organizations and international forces could in many cases play an important role in the international community's efforts, and the United Nations welcomed their participation and cooperation in peacemaking activities. At the same time, when major crises arose, so did the need for broader political and material support, which could be provided only through the United Nations.

14. The United Nations currently had 18 peacekeeping operations under way, involving approximately 14,000 troops, military observers and civilian police, who were taking on new, often unprecedented tasks. The deployment of 4,500 police in Kosovo, 6,000 peacekeepers in Sierra Leone and 9,000 to 16,000 troops and civilian police in East Timor, together with hundreds of civilian administrators, meant that the total number of peacekeepers would more than double within the next six months. The United Nations peacekeepers serving with dedication and courage, often at risk to their lives, deserved profound gratitude, as did Member States which had made their personnel available, even though the United Nations had unfortunately not always been able to ensure their swift reimbursement. Their readiness to make such sacrifices testified to their commitment to the goals of the Charter of the United Nations.

15. Briefly summarizing the achievements over the past year and highlighting some specific new demands on the Department, he said that the United Nations had played a key role in supporting the successful consultation process in East Timor and, through its continuous presence in the area, had prevented the further development of the tragic events. Currently, the United Nations was seeking to address the immediate needs of the population of East Timor, and to ensure a smooth transition to a United Nations peacekeeping presence. Preparations were being made for the deployment of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), which, like the administration in Kosovo, would have wide-ranging responsibilities.

16. There was a large United Nations presence in Kosovo, where the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe were cooperating in reconstruction, rehabilitation and institution-building, both those organizations operating under the authority of the Special Representative. At the same time, there continued to be close cooperation with the international military forces responsible for security in Kosovo.

17. In Sierra Leone the international community was working to expand its support for the peace process in that country and it was envisaged that the new United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) would include political and civil components that would assist in the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement; elements that would promote human rights and the protection of children; and a 6,000-strong military component that would assist the Government in carrying out its programme of disarmament and demobilization and create the necessary conditions of confidence and stability. There would also be civilian police to advise upon and monitor the reform and restructuring of the Sierra Leone police force. The United Nations would receive crucial assistance in its efforts from the Ceasefire Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West

African States (ECOMOG), which would provide a large contingent of troops and would continue to play an essential role in providing protection and security.

18. At the same time, two further operations were being planned in Africa. An initial deployment of liaison officers had already been undertaken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the capitals of countries that had signed the Lusaka Agreement and ways in which the United Nations presence could be expanded to support efforts to implement the peace agreements were under review. The Organization was also ready, if necessary, to participate in efforts to promote peace along the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

19. Two United Nations operations were nearing the successful conclusion of their tasks. The United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH), building on the legacy of earlier operations, was promoting the creation of a professional police force. The United Nations peacekeeping presence had enabled the Haitian people and Government to establish foundations for progress; the realization of those plans would depend on the political will of the country's leaders. The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) had assisted with the organization of presidential elections the previous month, having previously supported legislative elections in 1998. The operation, carried out in close cooperation with international financial institutions, had helped to promote political and financial stability within the country, to strengthen local and regional security and to provide space for reconciliation and economic recovery.

20. It should be noted that, in the case of a number of recently established or expanded missions, the Organization had had very limited time to prepare. In the Central African Republic, in East Timor, in Kosovo and elsewhere the United Nations had been asked to address increasingly complex needs in planning, deployment and support within constantly shorter periods of time. In Kosovo, 2,000 civilian police and an administrative component had been successfully deployed in record time. Events had followed a similar course in East Timor, where only the dynamism and dedication of United Nations staff had made it possible to set up a wide-ranging operation with practically no preparation.

21. As its workload had surged dramatically, the Department had experienced difficulties, particularly in dealing with longer-term requirements. In its report, the Special Committee had urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to develop the Organization's ability to make use of civilian police in peacekeeping operations. In that context, at the end of July 1999 the Department had convened a follow-up workshop on civilian police at United Nations Headquarters, in which all Member States had been invited to participate. The report on the seminar, which had been circulated to all Member States, had emphasized the need to ensure that officers deployed in the field possessed the necessary professional training, to increase logistical support, and to ensure closer cooperation between the Secretariat and Member States. It had been suggested that the Secretariat should work to develop the representation of police within standby arrangements. In that context he noted with satisfaction that over the past 12 months the civilian police participation in standby arrangements had risen from 1,300 to approximately 2,200 and that further increases were expected by the end of the year. Unfortunately, that progress had been dwarfed by the massive increase in requirements associated with the new operations; total police deployment was expected to reach 9,500 by the end of the year. It had also been urged that the Organization should be more specific about its recruiting needs for participation in missions; the more detailed recruitment system being developed for the operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo might serve as a prototype in that regard. It had been further suggested that the Department should coordinate the organization of strategy discussions and training seminars.

22. With regard to material needs, the Secretary-General had described the problem in detail in his statement to the Fifth Committee in October 1999, in which he had outlined efforts to streamline procedures and cited the need for adequate resources. The rapid depletion of standby equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi during the recent deployment of peacekeeping operations had highlighted the pertinence of that issue. In terms of personnel, it should be noted that the new operations deployed by the United Nations had drawn on specialists in many fields that had not traditionally formed part of peacekeeping operations, including judges and prosecutors, civil engineers and civilian administrators. There was also a pressing need for specialists in public information, since peacekeeping operations had to reach out to the general public to explain their complex roles. It might be helpful to expand the standby arrangements system by including military experts in such areas as law, public information or engineering. The Department had also begun to register civilian personnel; it might be useful to pursue the further development of rosters of civilian administrators, either within the United Nations database or within corresponding national systems.

23. The Department welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and was grateful for the Special Committee's efforts to focus attention on that issue, *inter alia* by urging Member States which had not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention (A/54/87, para. 88). At the same time, like the Special Committee, the Department believed that more needed to be done, especially in the light of the series of attacks on United Nations peacekeeping personnel, most recently in Sierra Leone, East Timor, Kosovo, Georgia and Burundi. The Department would give particular consideration to that issue in the context of its ongoing study of the nature and frequency of attacks on peacekeepers and related personnel. He hoped that the study would facilitate further dialogue with and among Member States on measures that could be taken.

24. In its report, the Special Committee focused not only on practical needs, but also on the doctrinal underpinnings of United Nations peacekeeping. Accordingly, it had requested the Secretariat to finalize, as soon as possible, guidelines on the observance by peacekeepers of international humanitarian law. As the Fourth Committee was aware, those guidelines had been issued on 6 August 1999 in the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/1999/13. Their issuance had followed lengthy discussions within the Secretariat, between the Secretariat and the International Committee of the Red Cross and between the Secretariat and Member States. The draft text that had resulted from that process had been circulated to Member States at the end of June. Subsequently, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had convened a meeting for a final exchange of views on the text. After the meeting, several Member States had provided comments which, in many cases, had proved useful for finalizing the text. Although the document was not an exhaustive list of the principles of international humanitarian law and would not replace the regulations applicable to military contingents under their national laws, it could be of real assistance in clarifying the application of international humanitarian law to United Nations forces and operations.

25. The Special Committee had also drawn attention to the need to cooperate with regional partners and, in that context, to the importance of efforts to enhance the peacekeeping capacity of the African countries. In that connection, the Department welcomed the organization, by the Security Council, of a ministerial meeting on 29 September to consider cooperation with Africa. Together with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Department had organized, early in the year, a third high-level meeting on the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity. In line with the decisions taken at that meeting, the Secretariat was currently facilitating consultations among Member States on the establishment of a working group to serve as a forum for regular exchanges of views, coordination of activities and increased cooperation. The Secretariat was also continuing its direct involvement in training and capacity-building activities for African States and its support for bilateral cooperation with them. It was important to note that 21 African countries were currently participating in United Nations operations, not only in Africa, but also in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Ultimately, by strengthening the capacity of African States to participate in peacekeeping operations, the international community could enhance the Organization's ability to promote world peace.

26. The Special Committee's report also dealt with a number of management-related questions on which the Secretariat had been active over the past year. With regard to gender balance, the Department had analysed the replies received from troop-contributing countries to a questionnaire on the role and status of women in their military services and civilian police forces, which had provided a clearer picture of the capacity of troop contributors to provide female personnel. The Department intended to continue to take steps to improve gender balance in peacekeeping operations while simultaneously promoting geographical balance. Once again, he urged Member States to nominate women for leadership posts in peacekeeping missions. At the same time, the Department would seek to improve gender balance among its unit chiefs at Headquarters; in that connection, he was pleased to announce the appointment of an exceptionally well-qualified female candidate as the head of the Department's Training Unit. In addition, the Department had undertaken a three-month programme of gender mainstreaming training for all staff of the Department working at Headquarters.

27. The new structure of the Department had largely been put in place. Although the initial results of the restructuring had been favourable, the staffing situation had worsened considerably over the past year. As the Fourth Committee was aware, the phasing out of gratis personnel had been completed by the scheduled deadline of February 1999, after which the total number of posts in the Department had been reduced. Unfortunately, that decision had coincided with a dramatic rise in peacekeeping activity, with the result that what had been intended as a lean and efficient staffing arrangement had become untenable in practice. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had noted that the Secretariat could request additional resources if the need arose and, accordingly, the Department was currently preparing a

request for supplementary posts. However, the process of requesting and obtaining posts and recruiting suitable candidates was a protracted one, and the Secretariat could not predict what its peacekeeping needs would be at a given moment. It was therefore imperative that capacity and flexibility should be built into the manner in which the Department operated.

28. Partnership between the Secretariat and Member States was crucial to ensuring that the mandates of peacekeeping operations were feasible, consistent and fully supported with material resources. The Secretariat was responsible for providing timely and reliable information and elaborating options for action, with full regard for the principle that activities to preserve peace and security in all parts of the world were of equal concern to the international community. At the same time, Member States must be prepared to act, to ensure that the preparation and conduct of peacekeeping operations were consistent and to provide material and political support for the operations they established. All Member States were equally responsible for fulfilling the mandate of any United Nations peacekeeping operation. If Member States asked the United Nations to do the impossible, failed to provide the necessary tools or abandoned the Organization in its hour of need, an instrument of great potential would be lost. Partnership between the Secretariat and Member States was not confined to the conduct of individual operations, but took the form of ongoing collaboration in the management of peacekeeping activities, in which Member States and the Secretariat had complementary roles to play.

29. The Secretariat was responsible for providing executive direction and management of operations in the field. Transparency and consultation were essential, but the need to uphold those principles could not be used to justify inaction. As the Secretary-General had noted in his address to the Fifth Committee, the Secretariat respected the General Assembly's right to legislate, but, in turn, the effectiveness of the Secretariat's work depended on the extent to which Member States respected its prerogatives in the area of management. United Nations peacekeeping operations would continue to be a unique and irreplaceable instrument that should be strengthened and preserved for future generations.

30. **Mr. Haekkerup** (Denmark) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. If the United Nations was to carry out its peacekeeping activities effectively, it must be provided with adequate resources. The provision of human and financial resources was the Achilles heel of peacekeeping. The current year had been a particularly turbulent one in that regard for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which had lost valuable expertise and continuity in key positions as a result of a 20 per cent cut in manpower resources. His delegation called upon Member States to translate the political support they had expressed in the Fourth Committee into corresponding financial decisions in the Fifth Committee. Resources were understood to include more than just financial means; the United Nations also needed well-trained and well-equipped peacekeepers. Currently, there were only three people in the Training Unit. Much more emphasis should be placed on that issue. It was important that as many countries as possible should participate in peacekeeping operations, since the settlement of crises was a responsibility of the entire international community.

31. The standby system could be more focused and efficient. On paper the United Nations had more than 140,000 troops at its disposal but experience from past and recent operations showed that that was not a reality. As a first step towards making the standby system more operational, the United Nations could start a more active dialogue concerning individual troop contributions. The organization could also look more systematically at improving the police component of the system.

32. His country welcomed the efforts to establish the rapidly deployable mission headquarters (RDMHQ) but, with the increasing number of missions, it was possible that an additional RDMHQ would be needed in order rapidly to deploy to a new second mission.

33. Looking back at recent developments, his delegation wished to compliment the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the progress achieved in the area of public information in the context of peacekeeping missions. The effective employment of public information must be an integral part of any peacekeeping operation since it played a key role in the battle for the hearts and minds of people in the mission area and was of great importance for the safety and security of the personnel, as well as being an important tool in the post-conflict peace-building phase.

34. His country noted the progress in the field of logistics but urged that resources be found for the additional necessary start-up kits. It was also gratifying to note that important lessons that had been learned from past operations were incorporated into new ones; that should be part of the routine procedures when considering new missions.

35. Early warning was a necessary condition for effective preventive action. If preventive action were taken more seriously that would help to reduce the number of wars and the consequential human suffering. In that connection, the Secretary-General was to be commended on his use of special envoys and on his quiet diplomacy. Early warning

needed to be accompanied by efficient contingency planning, the United Nations could not wait for decisions by the Security Council before making a start on operational and logistics planning for a potential operation.

36. Peacekeeping was a global responsibility which should not be farmed out to regional organizations. However, assistance to and cooperation with regional organizations could be very effective in conflict prevention and assist in building peacekeeping capacities for use jointly with the United Nations.

37. His country was supporting the efforts of the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to develop their own peacekeeping capacity, as well as a capacity for conflict prevention. It was assisting in building up a regional training centre in Harare and had shared experience in preparing for international missions with ministers from the member countries of SADC. His country fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to coordinate training for peacekeeping, capacity-building and the establishment of an early-warning system. That would enable the African countries to create their own conflict resolution capacity.

38. Over the years, the United Nations had achieved impressive results but the strengthening of peace still required further hard work; the more proactive was the approach of the international community, the smaller would be the resources needed. Peacekeeping was not the solution, but a means to an end.

39. His country had consistently supported the United Nations with manpower, financing, political support and new thinking, and intended to continue to do so.

40. **Ms. Rasi** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Iceland, expressed appreciation to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for the work it had done, drawing particular attention to the agreement on the reform of the Special Committee's working methods which would add new dynamism to its work in 2000.

41. Following a period of reduced activity, United Nations peacekeeping activities were once again on the increase. The Organization had been entrusted with new and extremely challenging tasks in Kosovo and East Timor and was likely to strengthen its peacekeeping presence in Africa. The European Union reiterated its strong commitment to the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and had demonstrated that commitment in practical terms: in August 1999, one third of the civilian police and over a quarter of the troops serving in peacekeeping missions were citizens of the European Union and its financial contributions represented almost 40 per cent of the United Nations peacekeeping budget.

42. The events of the past few months had obliged the membership of the Organization and the Secretariat to consider how the capacity of the Organization could be strengthened and how to provide adequate collective resources to meet present and future challenges. The European Union had repeatedly supported the maintenance of the capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to deploy and manage such operations, irrespective of their number and size. Unfortunately, there had been a 20 per cent decrease in the personnel of the Department during the previous year. In the view of the European Union, the Department would be unable, at present staffing levels, to meet the new challenges presented to it by the Organization.

43. In the past few years, peacekeeping operations had become increasingly multidimensional. In order to plan, deploy and manage the increasing number of multidimensional missions, the Department needed to be adequately structured and staffed. At the same time, it should coordinate and cooperate with United Nations agencies, other international organizations and Member States, thereby making possible an improvement in the coordination of human rights tasks, integrating a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations as well as drawing attention to the rights of children in armed conflicts.

44. The European Union believed that the planning and deployment of new large-scale, multidimensional operations required, above all, greater professional expertise among military personnel and the civilian police forces.

45. The streamlining of the structure of the Department would have only a limited impact in terms of the rationalization of resources, and in that connection the European Union looked forward to a request from the Secretariat concerning adequate staffing levels to be presented for consideration by the relevant organs. Addressing that problem would enhance the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, the quality and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, and ultimately the willingness of Member States to contribute to such activities.

46. Another means of strengthening the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations would be to enhance its rapid deployment capacity, a central element of which were the standby arrangements. The European Union reaffirmed its strong support for those arrangements and looked for their

further improvement. Recalling that the Organization was not in a position to deploy Headquarters personnel to the theatre of operations, she considered that complete staffing of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters (RDMHQ) without delay was a priority and was vital for the credibility of the concept of United Nations peacekeeping.

47. The demand for civilian police was increasing significantly and it would become ever more difficult to provide the numbers required while preserving the quality and respecting the principle of broad geographical distribution. The European Union considered it essential to think creatively in order to tackle that problem and called on all Member States and the Secretariat to share ideas in that connection, always keeping in mind the requirements for high standards in the training and performance of police officers together with the importance of studying the question of how to develop rapid civilian police deployment capacities.

48. Turning to the financial situation, he said that the new peacekeeping mandates made it even more imperative that Member States should fulfil all their financial obligations to the Organization. Peacekeeping was an activity where shared commitments had to be translated into willingness to provide sufficient resources.

49. With regard to the guidelines for peacekeepers on humanitarian law, the European Union regretted the way in which the Secretariat had carried out the consultations prior to their publication. Nevertheless the European Union was considering those guidelines and believed it was important that they should accurately reflect the provisions of international humanitarian law.

50. Finally, he paid tribute to those who had lost their lives while serving in United Nations peacekeeping activities, most recently in Kosovo and Burundi. The European Union was outraged at the hostage-taking of United Nations and other international personnel, and was adamant that the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel had to be one of the top priorities for the United Nations and its Member States.

51. **Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein** (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that the Movement had always believed that peacekeeping operations should conform strictly to the guiding principles, as contained in paragraphs 48 to 53 of the report of the Special Committee (A/54/87), including the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, and impartiality. Moreover, the success of any mission depended on clearly defined mandates and secure financing.

52. While peacekeeping was an important instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security, it could not be a substitute for a permanent solution, or for addressing the underlying causes of a conflict. Peacekeeping operations had their greatest value as a temporary measure contributing to a ceasefire or a cessation of hostilities, and provided an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit, through other peaceful means, of an end to the conflict.

53. The Non-Aligned Movement believed that the issue of "humanitarian intervention" should be addressed in the appropriate forums of the General Assembly, but not in the Fourth Committee. In its recent communiqué, it had rejected the so-called right of humanitarian intervention as having no legal basis in the Charter or in the general principles of international law. Furthermore, it was important that the United Nations should maintain a clear distinction between humanitarian operations and all other activities of the United Nations system, including peacekeeping.

54. The cooperative spirit which had characterized the work of the Special Committee at its 1999 spring session had contributed to the Committee's adoption of a new working procedure, which would allow the General Assembly to consider the peacekeeping issue more effectively, and to enhance the role of the Special Committee in maintaining the relationship between it and the Fourth Committee as between a subsidiary body and a Main Committee of the General Assembly.

55. Since the time of the latest meeting of the Special Committee, a number of new operations had been, or were in the process of being, established. It was important that the Security Council should approach all conflicts, irrespective of their geographical location, with an equal and uniform level of intensity and commitment. In connection with the increased burden on the Secretariat as a result of the new mandates from the Security Council, the Non-Aligned Movement would like to know how the Secretariat was handling the current surge in new operations, particularly after the phase-out of gratis personnel, and whether it was seeking additional resources. In that context, the Non-Aligned Movement attached great importance to filling all posts in a manner consistent with the requirements of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and on the widest possible geographical basis. That applied not only to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York, but also to the field.

56. There had been other developments which had been a cause of concern and were an argument in favour of establishing a closer relationship between the Secretariat and members of the General Assembly, which provided the bulk

of personnel serving on missions. Referring to one problem area, he said that the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had sent Member States a letter dated 28 June in which he had cited the Special Committee's 1999 report and noted how the Committee had urged the Secretariat to finalize the guidelines for United Nations peacekeepers regarding international humanitarian law. He had attached to that letter the Secretary-General's official bulletin on the issue, which had not yet been published.

57. In response, the Working Group of the Non-Aligned Movement had sent two letters to the Secretariat, in one of which, dated 8 July, it had expressed appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for having distributed the provisional document, but had requested him to give Member States more time to study it, as the two weeks assigned for that purpose were clearly insufficient, especially since the Secretariat had been working on the document for almost two and a half years, during which time it had had no consultation with the troop-contributing countries. In that letter, the Non-Aligned Movement had also noted that the Under-Secretary-General had not taken into account paragraph 82 of the Special Committee's report, in which the Secretariat was urged to finalize the guidelines "in consultations with the Special Committee".

58. The Non-Aligned Movement had therefore thought it appropriate to ask the Special Committee to convene an informal session of the Working Group so that a large number of Member States could review the proposed bulletin, and that had been done. In its second letter of 22 July, the Secretariat had been informed of the decision to convene such a meeting. On 26 July, when the Chairman of the Working Group had been temporarily absent from New York, the Secretariat had hastily arranged a separate meeting for Member States, at which, despite objections by a number of members of the Non-Aligned Movement and other countries, a decision had been taken to release the guidelines in their original form.

59. Such behaviour on the part of the Secretariat was simply unacceptable, and was hardly in keeping with the spirit of the consultation process envisaged in the report of the Special Committee. The Non-Aligned Movement did not consider the matter closed and hoped that the guidelines would be properly examined in consultation with Member States. A similar approach should be taken to the handling of the sample rules of engagement, in accordance with paragraph 70 of the report of the Special Committee.

60. Another issue of concern was the Secretariat's procedure for the selection of police personnel for the Kosovo mission. At briefings for the troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat had informed them that, owing to lack of time, it had been unable to send Selection Assistance Teams to those countries and that greater flexibility would be factored into the admission of the first batch of police officers.

61. Unfortunately, everything had happened differently. The police monitors had been given an English-language proficiency test which had been more stringent than that for other missions, and many of them had been judged unfit for service. Some police officers who had passed the first test successfully had been given a second test, which they had then failed. All that was very disturbing for a number of members of the Non-Aligned Movement. The United Nations should at least cover the repatriation costs of those police officers.

62. On a more general level, the Working Group of the Non-Aligned Movement acknowledged that the primary responsibility for the nomination of the police officers lay with the Member States themselves. It also recognized the need for civilian police officers to receive further testing in the field, on their driving ability, but the policy to be followed in that regard should be that outlined by the Secretariat in its note of 8 July 1998.

63. The Movement of Non-Aligned countries remained deeply concerned about the delays in reimbursement of troop costs and contingent-owned equipment leases. Those delays adversely affected the capacity, and, potentially, the will of troop-contributing countries to participate in peacekeeping. It also wished to highlight paragraph 107 of the report of the Special Committee and to reaffirm the obligation of Member States to bear the expenses of the Organization, in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council.

64. With respect to procurement, the Non-Aligned Movement recalled General Assembly resolution 51/231 of 13 June 1997, which mentioned the need to give priority to developing countries. It also considered that the Organization should give preferential treatment to offers from troop-contributing countries. In order to induce countries to pay their contributions, the Organization should consider the option of not awarding contracts to Member States that had the capacity to pay, but did not fulfil their financial obligations to the United Nations.

65. The planning and deployment of peacekeeping operations should take place within the framework of the standby arrangements system, which was open to all States. With regard to cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements, the Non-Aligned Movement stressed

the importance of paragraphs 115 to 123 of the report and noted that such cooperation must abide by the letter and spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter and must take into account the existing mechanisms in each of the regional agencies.

66. In conclusion, the Non-Aligned Movement paid tribute to the United Nations peacekeepers who had died in the line of duty. In that connection, it wished to express concern over the increase in the number of attacks against members of peacekeeping missions, and, in keeping with paragraph 89 of the report, to recommend that the Secretariat should seek the views of Member States on that subject in an open-ended working group or seminar on safety and security of United Nations personnel in peacekeeping operations.

67. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that, while in the past "traditional" conflicts had been settled by the signing of a peace agreement, there was really only one approach to today's conflicts, given their complexities, and that was peace-building, which meant supporting the transition from war to peace. Because of the diversity of the organizations involved in peace-building, there must be clear mechanisms for coordinating the actions of all the participants, and all the organizations involved must have a common goal.

68. The United Nations was best able to set up multifunctional peacekeeping operations by making use of a combination of different strategic instruments. In order for it to do so, however, the Organization's personnel at all levels, particularly leaders in the field, must have the appropriate training. Priority must therefore be given to the work of the Lessons Learned Unit and the Training Unit.

69. The expertise and qualifications of personnel played a crucial role in promoting cooperation among different organizations, and his delegation therefore attached great importance to the activities of the United Nations Training Assistance Teams. It actively supported such training and supplied instructors and financial resources. Professional leadership was another important ingredient for the success of multifunctional peacekeeping operations.

70. Since each operation had its own specific characteristics, there was a need to take into account the distribution of roles among the various regional participants, as well as other regional dimensions. When large military forces were called for, the Organization must seek assistance from regional organizations, which could more readily mobilize the forces of their members. It was therefore necessary to strengthen the capacity of such organizations to participate in peacekeeping operations.

71. In that connection, his delegation considered that the United Nations, in close cooperation with regional organizations, must establish common principles for training personnel and military units. It was also important to establish common structures for interaction between the Organization and the respective regional organizations and to improve multifunctional planning and coordination. The Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters had a vital role to play in that work. In order to realize those important aims, countries with greater financial resources and extensive experience of peacekeeping must provide funding and personnel to establish a self-sustaining peacekeeping capacity within all regional organizations.

72. As the experience of the past decade had shown, in order to achieve a sustainable peace, the international community must assist countries in rebuilding a viable civil society. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration played an important role in that regard.

73. The presence of large numbers of small arms and light weapons was a major destabilizing factor during the post-conflict phase, threatening the security of peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel. There was therefore a need to include in the mandate of future peacekeeping operations the demobilization of former combatants and the collection of small arms.

74. His delegation considered that one of the most crucial issues in almost all peace-building efforts was the reform of the State security system, in particular such elements as the police, the judiciary and the criminal justice system. They were among the key functions of any State and must not be neglected in the national reconstruction process.

75. It was therefore important that the United Nations should stress to Member States the need to build capacity in order to allow for the participation in peacekeeping operations of specialists in the field of security sector reform, for the shortage of such persons was sorely felt throughout the world. The Organization might consider developing a common strategy for participation in reform of that sector. It should also establish common standards and organize common training for that type of personnel.

76. Peace-building increasingly entailed the training and restructuring of local police forces. That was an important element of overall security sector reform, requiring the alteration of the institutional environment in which the police operated. That process required many years of effort, as well as the provision by the Organization of officers with expertise in building institutions, conducting police training and restructuring police forces. That issue was a priority for his country. Currently, a number of experienced Norwegian

police officers were working as instructors on courses for civilian police all over the world.

77. In many instances, the destabilizing consequences of conflicts, namely organized crime, weapons smuggling and so on, spilled over national borders. Peace-building must therefore be seen as an issue of regional dimensions.

78. **Mr. Sutoyo** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), reaffirmed the guiding principles relating to peacekeeping operations embodied in the Final Communiqué of the Conference of Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement and in the report of the Special Committee to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Because of the increasing complexity of the peacekeeping operations conducted by the United Nations, ASEAN was concerned about the safety and security of United Nations staff and agreed on the need to give the staff adequate protection. It was also important to ensure maximum impartiality in the operations and among the staff assigned to them. The procedure for the recruitment of United Nations staff was a matter of serious concern. In the case of international staff, measures were taken to ensure equitable representation, but that was not true of local staff of the United Nations in mission areas. That was incompatible with the impartial nature of the United Nations and ASEAN strongly urged the Secretariat to give serious attention to that issue.

79. Regional organizations and the international community as a whole could play a role in United Nations peacekeeping operations in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter and the mandate of the Security Council. ASEAN would study ways and means of improving cooperation with the United Nations in order to promote peace and stability in the region. ASEAN also believed that regional efforts were no substitute for the role of the United Nations in maintaining peace, since the Organization bore the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In addition, regional peacekeeping efforts should be strictly based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and subject to the control of the Security Council. Moreover, ASEAN espoused the principle of universal participation in peacekeeping operations.

80. If the Secretariat rejected a request from a particular Member State to participate in a peacekeeping operation, it should explain the reason for its decision. In recent months, the Secretariat had taken steps to improve the arrangements for informing Member States about the work of missions in the regions. If there was no time for the Secretariat to convene a meeting in order to convey important or urgent information, it should communicate directly with the Permanent Missions concerned.

81. ASEAN welcomed the fact that, for the first time in four years, the United Nations had decreased the amount borrowed from the peacekeeping budget to finance items under the regular budget. The borrowing adversely affected the Organization's ability to reimburse on time the countries contributing troops and equipment to peacekeeping operations, many of which were developing countries. ASEAN strongly urged the Secretary-General to give urgent attention to the problem of overdue payments, particularly to developing countries. The Organization currently owed ASEAN member States about US$ 30 million. The developing troop-contributing countries should not suffer because others were not meeting their obligations.

82. Despite the progress made by the Procurement Division, ASEAN strongly urged the Secretariat to continue efforts to improve and reform the procedures and rules for procurement and to expand the geographical scope of the list of suppliers, as well as to take all necessary measures to increase the volume of purchases for peacekeeping operations from developing countries and to grant preferential treatment to vendors from those countries who met the established requirements. While the financial and other obligations with regard to peacekeeping operations were borne by the majority of Member States, purchases for those operations basically continued to be made in a small number of countries.

83. In conclusion, ASEAN expressed support for the Special Committee and profound gratitude to peacekeepers throughout the world.

84. **Mr. Zaki** (Egypt) recalled that the first peacekeeping operation in the established sense had been approved by the General Assembly and not by the Security Council and had been deployed on the territory of Egypt at the beginning of 1957. He had referred to that operation in order to reaffirm the role entrusted by the Charter to the General Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security.

85. In connection with the ongoing debate about the United Nations approach to crises with a humanitarian aspect, the delegation of Egypt firmly adhered to the consistent position of the Non-Aligned Movement on the need to differentiate between peacekeeping and humanitarian action. The General Assembly should assume the principal role in the discussion of those questions, and Egypt had a specific proposal to make in that regard.

86. The events of 1999, after the end of the most recent session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping

Operations, raised a number of important issues: the methods and structure of work of the Secretariat and their appropriateness for the conditions created by the new operations; the value of the Stand-By Arrangements System for the Organization and whether the contributions from Member States were within the requirements; and the comprehensive review of the rules governing the role of civilian police, which had become a crucial element in most United Nations operations.

87. The delegation of Egypt viewed with deep concern the delay in reimbursing Egypt for its participation in United Nations operations. Such delays adversely affected the capacity of Egypt and of many other countries, particularly developing countries, to sustain an effective contribution to those operations.

88. The current year had witnessed an important event relating to the issue by the Secretariat of guidelines on international humanitarian law for the staff of peacekeeping operations. In addition to what had been said by the representative of Jordan in that regard, the delegation of Egypt considered that the guidelines should be subject to review and appraisal. That should be done primarily through the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in coordination with the Sixth Committee.

89. In conclusion, the delegation of Egypt welcomed the Special Committee's proposal that its method of work should be examined in the Fourth Committee and in the General Assembly. Egypt looked forward to enhanced cooperation between the Special Committee and the Secretariat, which would have a positive effect on the way in which the United Nations addressed questions related to the maintenance of international peace and security.

90. **Mr. Barbers** (Philippines) said that the past year had been particularly challenging for United Nations peacekeeping operations as regards resource levels both for the United Nations and for contributing States. There was a sense that many contributing States had started to suffer from "donor fatigue" because of the growing number of operations.

91. The United Nations had become expert in peacekeeping operations but it would be most imprudent to think that familiarity and practice would eliminate all the problems. That was, of course, far from being the case. Not only was the world still suffering from violence and conflict, but there was no agreement on the concepts and strategy underlying United Nations peacekeeping missions. The growing universal consciousness of human rights was placing a new strain on the traditional concepts of sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs of States. The Philippines valued State sovereignty and the universal nature of human rights as important components of its national values and interests.

92. The United Nations should be able to find a balance between upholding the sovereignty of States and promoting human rights. If the international order was to be under the rule of law, it was essential to uphold the decision of the international community to give the exclusive right to use force to the Security Council, except in situations where the use of force was dictated by the need for self-defence. To allow or tolerate unilateral intervention would set a dangerous precedent in power politics for future generations, which would lead to the demise of the rule of law. At the same time, Governments should not be allowed to hide behind the veil of sovereignty while continuing to suppress basic human rights.

93. The Philippines was participating actively in several peacekeeping missions and would continue to do so as far as its resources would allow. It was particularly grateful for the Secretariat's efforts to achieve a gender balance in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and in the field, and for the Department's efforts in that direction.

94. While the whole question of peacekeeping operations could be broken down into a number of details, it might be useful to consider where peacekeeping stood as an important concern of the United Nations. The international community must find a balance between the principles of State sovereignty and human rights, which had been proclaimed in various forums, since they seemed to be on a collision course.

95. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan firmly supported the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations and its efforts to strengthen its peacekeeping potential, and shared the view of those States which believed that in the next century the world must become multipolar, free from power centres and dividing lines, from confrontation and clashes.

96. An analysis of the main causes of past conflicts showed that the transformation of potential conflicts into uncontrollable violence could be prevented only by early warning based on a preventive strategy under the auspices of the United Nations and by the necessary political will. That was apparent also from the recent crises in Kosovo and East Timor. In that context, his delegation fully endorsed the need to strengthen the Organization's potential to prevent armed conflicts by strengthening the strategy of preventive diplomacy, preventive deployment and preventive disarmament.

97. One of the main tasks in the sphere of peace-building was still the creation of a comprehensive mechanism to prevent the actual outbreak of destructive conflicts and their spread into the international arena. In that connection, it was essential to continue to seek ways of reacting effectively to the complex conflicts that arose in the modern world, which often required simultaneous action to maintain peace and promote development.

98. In recent years, poor countries had been far more likely than rich countries to become embroiled in armed conflicts. His delegation therefore fully shared the Secretary-General's conclusions that the international community should actively encourage policies that enhanced people-centred security in conflict-prone regions, since minimum standards of security were a precondition for development. Also important for the achievement of those goals was the application by the Organization of a new integrated concept of security at the local level.

99. His delegation commended the efforts of the Secretariat and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to pay due attention to the proposals regarding participation in peacekeeping operations under stand-by arrangements, the potential of which was demonstrated by the fact that the system currently included more than 80 States.

100. In the context of the measures required to make the training of peacekeepers more effective, the further development of cooperation between the United Nations and Member States in the conduct of multidimensional exercises for peacekeepers merited unconditional approval. To improve the professional training of peacekeepers, in the past two years Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, with the participation of the Centrazbat collective peacekeeping battalion and military units from the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia, had twice carried out multidimensional exercises in the territory of Kazakhstan. Those peacekeeping exercises had covered issues relating to the coordination of cooperation in the conduct of peacekeeping operations when local conflicts occurred and the provision of humanitarian assistance, as well as the command, control and administrative support system.

101. Kazakhstan remained firmly committed to its peacekeeping obligations and would continue to do its utmost to make a practical contribution to the strengthening of the peacekeeping potential of the United Nations.

102. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) said that his delegation was convinced of the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations as a mechanism for ensuring international peace and security on the basis of the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations. At the same time, there was no universal methodology that would allow an effective response to various crisis situations which arose ever more frequently as a result of internal, rather than international, conflicts.

103. In view of the fact that the concept of maintaining international peace and security permitted a wide range of operations to be undertaken, from conflict prevention to direct peace-building, it was especially important to improve the machinery for early warning of the causes of conflicts and to prepare to react to them on that basis before there was a need to resort to force. In that connection, the implementation of measures for the maintenance of peace and security should not be farmed out to any narrow group of countries. Moreover, in efforts to carry out the mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security, it was not acceptable to depart from the fundamental principles and legal standards underlying the joint action of the international community.

104. The complex character of conflict situations to be dealt with at the present time made it necessary to make the Organization's activities more dynamic while maintaining a cautious approach. That would be the major task in the coming century.

105. In the recent report of the Secretary-General it was stated that references to non-observance of humanitarian principles and human rights were increasingly being used to justify the use of force, even without the sanction of the Security Council. In that connection, his delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement and supported their appeal for a clear distinction between humanitarian activities and United Nations peacekeeping operations.

106. Colombia further believed that when dealing with humanitarian crises the United Nations system should use its existing humanitarian support machinery, on the basis of constructive cooperation with legitimate national Governments which demonstrated their desire to find solutions.

107. The multifaceted nature of peacekeeping operations imposed a need for greater clarity and transparency in their mandates and objectives. Strict compliance with mandates, together with the prior consent of the parties, enhanced the effectiveness of the operations, strengthened trust and improved the prospects for the success of the joint activities of the international community. In that connection Colombia noted with satisfaction the distribution of the Secretary-

General's bulletin on observance by United Nations forces of humanitarian law.

108. **Mr. Sato** (Japan) said that during the past 12 months the Security Council had taken a number of important actions in the area of peacekeeping, for example in Kosovo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor and Sierra Leone. In that context a number of issues had arisen which required the urgent attention of the international community, including issues of the Organization's capacity to respond to humanitarian crises. Serious attention should be given in that connection to the statement made by the Secretary-General in the General Assembly on 20 September on the importance of and the dilemma posed by intervention, in which peacekeeping was an essential element.

109. His delegation wished to comment on two questions. The first was the need to put the United Nations peacekeeping operations on a sound financial footing; the Secretariat had with good reason doubled the budget estimates for such operations in 1999. The Member States must remind themselves anew of their obligation to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full, and without conditions. Furthermore, there must not be excessive reliance on voluntary contributions to make up for shortfalls in assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations or political missions of the United Nations. The case of UNAMET was not encouraging in that respect: the first phase had been financed almost entirely from voluntary contributions, and Japan in particular had contributed over $10 million to the Trust Fund.

110. The second question was the safety of peacekeeping personnel, which was a precondition for all United Nations peacekeeping operations. However, in 1999 alone 13 staff members of the Organization had been killed in the line of duty. Their tragic loss must be taken as yet another reminder of the dangerous conditions faced by United Nations personnel as they carried out their duties. Japan had long been stressing the need for increased efforts to ensure the safety of personnel in the field. The first requirement was to establish international legal frameworks to ensure the safety of personnel, and Japan welcomed in that connection the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which had entered into force in January 1999, and it called upon those States which had not yet done so to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

111. The second requirement was the implementation of concrete measures to enhance safety. In that respect the Trust Fund for Security of United Nations Personnel and the training activities which the Fund supported were of great importance. Japan, for its part, had arranged several training seminars for United Nations volunteers and had contributed $1 million to support related activities.

112. Japan recognized the importance of investing the force in East Timor with a truly multinational character and had decided to contribute about $100 million to the Trust Fund in order to facilitate the participation of Asian and other developing countries in the international force. It believed that the international character of the force in East Timor would be a positive asset in the transition to the United Nations peacekeeping operation. It therefore appealed to other countries, particularly the developed ones which were not sending troops, to contribute to the Fund.

113. His delegation supported the proposed improvement of the working methods of the Special Committee. As one of the sponsors of the draft resolution Japan hoped that the implementation of the proposal would lead to a more fruitful discussion at future sessions in the Fourth Committee and in the Special Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.